

**Probation Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

July 12, 2002
Minutes

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, July 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present: Mary Harper, Thomas Perrone, Douglas R. Bridges, Jesse Villalpando, Richard Good, and John Surbeck, chair.
2. Staff present. Jenny Bauer and Michelle Goodman provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Others present. Also in attendance was Susan Rice, vice president of the Probation Officers Professional Organization of Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The committee approved the minutes from the May 10, 2002 meeting.
5. Proposed changes to salary schedule. The committee reviewed the proposed Minimum Schedule of Salaries for Probation Officers as drafted at the May meeting. The committee discussed several issues raised by the Judicial Conference Board of Directors and chief probation officers. The first issue discussed was the “bonus grid” for chief probation officers, assistant chiefs, and supervisors. Judge Surbeck distributed copies of two e-mail messages he received from chief probation officers in small probation departments. These chiefs urged the committee to reconsider the grid and pay all chiefs the same bonus. The committee discussed this recommendation and decided to keep the chief bonus dependent on department size. The committee then voted to increase the bonus for chiefs in 1-3 person departments to \$5000 (an increase of \$2500), and the bonus for chiefs in 4-8 person departments to \$7500 (an increase of \$2500). Also on the issue of minimum salaries for chief probation officers, the committee considered the possibility of experienced line probation officers having a higher minimum salary than inexperienced chief probation officers. The committee acknowledged that this could happen, and voted to keep chief probation officer minimum salaries at years of experience plus the premium. Jenny Bauer reported that several probation departments are concerned about the proposed new salary schedule being lower than the current minimum for their counties. These departments are specifically worried about county councils cutting salaries to meet the lower minimums. In response to this concern, the committee agreed to add language to the new schedule stating that salaries cannot be reduced if the county pays more than the new minimum.

6. Public hearing. Jenny Bauer reported that the public hearing on the proposed changes to the salary schedule is set for August 16, 2002 at 10:30 a.m. in the Supreme Court Courtroom. Notice will be published in the *Indianapolis Star*, and a notice will be sent to all judges and chief probation officers. Additionally, Ms. Bauer reported that she will deliver a copy of the notice to the Association of Indiana Counties for distribution to their members. The public hearing is scheduled for one and a half hours, and speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.
7. New Interstate Compact. Jenny Bauer reported that the New Compact has now been passed in 38 states. The Parole and Probation Compact Administrators Association (PPCAA) will discuss transition between the old and new compacts at its July 31-August 2 meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. Jane Seigel, Bob Champion and Jenny Bauer will represent the Judicial Center at the meeting, and Judge Dan Vanderpool will attend on behalf of the committee. Ms. Bauer also distributed copies of the July 2002 PPCAA newsletter and copies of the model language for the New Compact.
8. Next meeting. The next meeting of the Probation Committee is scheduled for August 16, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Bauer
Staff Attorney